NEWS

Man who says he was shot in robbery winds up in jail

By **MICHAEL MELLO** | Orange County Register
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BUENA PARK – A Paramount man who claims he was shot during an alleged robbery on Tuesday night is now in custody on suspicion of terrorist threats, burglary, and lying to officers, police officials reported.

At a Fullerton hospital, Jamy Richards, 46, told detectives he got shot after someone robbed him of his cell phone and he chased after the "thief" behind a grocery store on the 6900 block of La Palma Avenue.

But detectives tell another story, according to Buena Park police Sgt. Bill Kohanek.

They say the robbery never happened. Instead, around 9:30 p.m., investigators said Richards walked four blocks to the 6900 block of Houston Street, and began banging on the walls of a home belonging to a 39-year-old man.

The man who police did not identify for his protection – grabbed his handgun after hearing the noise.

"He walked to the front of the house, and Richards broke through the front door," Kohanek said. "The victim fired one time, and he believed he had missed the suspect. He said it startled him (Richards)."

That's when the victim recognized Richards as a man who had threatened him before, Kohanek said.

Richards made his way back to his truck, where he phoned a friend who dropped him off at the hospital.

Hospital staff called Buena Park officers to report the shooting. When officers interviewed him on Tuesday night, Richards told them a story about a robbery and a shooting, Kohanek said. But, he added, when officers examined the "scene" behind the grocery store, they found no evidence to support Richards' claim.

Then on Wednesday, Richards called the victim and "Richards basically told him to keep the story between them and not call the police," Kohanek said. Instead, the victim "came straight to the police department to report what happened."

Detectives returned to the hospital to confront Richards, who then admitted he had fabricated the robbery about the story, Kohanek said. After doctors discharged Richards on Wednesday afternoon, detectives booked him into the Buena Park City Jail. He remains in custody on $50,000 bail.

The man who shot Richards will not be charged. The man acted because he feared for his safety, and "was determined to have used the weapon lawfully to protect himself," Kohanek said.

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